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Message Text

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EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 IGA-02 IO-13 /102 W
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O R 121249Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6445
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
USIA WASHDC
DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 04458

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GW
SUBJECT: WEST GERMAN PRESS REFLECTION ON EVE OF
GENSCHER AND LEBER DEPARTURE TO WASHINGTON

1. SUMMARY: A NUMBER OF PRESTIGIOUS GERMAN PAPERS THIS MORNING CARRY FRONT-PAGE STORIES TALKING OPENLY OF GROWING TENSION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE FRG AND REPORTING THE GENSCHER-LEBER WASHINGTON VISITS AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND. GENSCHER'S VISIT IN PARTICULAR IS DESCRIBED AS A HURRIEDLY-AGREED EFFORT TO ALLEVIATE THESE ALLEGED TENSIONS. THE PAPERS CITE DISAGREEMENTS OVER ECONOMIC POLICY AND NUCLEAR POLICY AS WELL AS OVER WEAPONS STANDARDIZATION.

THE STORIES APPEAR TO REFLECT SOME BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS, GENERALLY ALONG SIMILAR LINES THOUGH SUFFICIENTLY DIVERGENT TO SUGGEST NO JOINT BRIEFINGS BUT SEPARATE BACKGROUND DISCUSSIONS.

THE EMBASSY IS NOT CERTAIN WHERE THE BRIEFINGS
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ORIGINATED. ONE OF GENSCHER'S AIDES HAS EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN TO US ABOUT THE STORIES, AND HAS SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD TRY TO CALM THE ATMOSPHERE. HE SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD CONSISTENTLY ATTEMPTED TO AVOID ANY SUGGESTION OF DETERIORATING U.S.-FRG RELATIONSHIPS IN HIS PUBLIC AND BACKGROUND COMMENTS, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO THE

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SAME SINCE A CRISIS ATMOSPHERE WOULD REDUCE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR FINDING A SOLUTION. HE ALSO SAID THAT THESE STORIES MADE THE GERMANS ALL THE MORE GLAD THAT THE MEETINGS SHOULD HELP RELAX THE ATMOSPHERE AND PUT THE ISSUES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE FRG INTO PROPER PERSPECTIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL ANZEIGER, BONN, INDEPENDENT, HAS THREE LONG ARTICLES ON FRONTPAGE UNDER HEADLINE "TALKS BETWEEN BONN AND WASHINGTON ARE IN MOVEMENT." ARTICLE STATES ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY THE AIM OF GENSCHER AND LEBER TALKS IS TO REESTABLISH THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO CAPITALS ALSO WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. GOES ON TO SAY "IN BONN FOLLOWING ARE NAMED AS MOST IMPORTANT TALKING POINTS." LISTED ARE EAST-WEST RELATIONS; ATLANTIC PACT RELATIONS (CSCE AS WELL AS NATO); SALT AND MBFR; NORTH SOUTH DIALOGUE; NEAR EAST; NUCLEAR POLICY. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT LEBER'S VISIT WILL CONCENTRATE ON TANK STANDARDIZATION, "REGARDING WHICH IN LAST FEW DAYS THERE HAS BEEN HEAVY NEGATIVE REVERBERATIONS FROM INTERESTED AMERICAN CIRCLES," AND AWACS.

3. SECOND FRONT PAGE ANZEIGER ARTICLE HEADLINED "NUCLEAR DIALOGUE BONN -- USA" REPORTS TERMINATION OF BRAZIL DEFENSE TREATY WITH U.S. STATES "ONE HOPES IN BONN THAT THE CONTINUATION OF GERMAN-AMERICAN DISCUSSION REGARDING NUCLEAR ENERGY AND NON-PROLIFERATION WILL CONTRIBUTE TO DEFUSE BRAZILIAN-
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AMERICAN TENSION." REFERS TO SCHMIDT LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER, REPORTING THAT SCHMIDT SAID NPT SIGNATORIES ACCEPTED OBLIGATIONS ON UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD NOT PREVENT DISSEMINATION OF CAPACITY FOR PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND THAT DENIAL OF THIS CAPACITY WOULD BURDEN RELATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD. REFERS TO PRESIDENT'S REPLY, CHARACTERIZING IT AS PREPARATORY TO THE CHRISTOPHER VISIT IN BONN. STATES LETTER DOES NOT CONTEND SCHMIDT'S POLITICAL ARGUMENTS BUT LIMITS ITSELF MORE TO NUCLEAR TECHNICAL ASPECTS. CONTINUES "POLITICAL CIRCLES, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE IN THE TALKS WITH CHRISTOPHER A CLARIFICATION OF THE GERMAN POSITION AND ITS BACKGROUND, SUPPLEMENTING THE CHANCELLOR'S LETTER CHARACTERIZED AS 'VERY IMPRESSIVE AND FORCIBLE.'" CONTINUES "IT IS SAID IN BONN THAT IT IS THE SERVICE OF THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT TO BRING TO BRAZIL THE CONTROL ASPECTS OF THE NPT ALTHOUGH THAT COUNTRY HAS NOT SIGNED THE

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AGREEMENT."

4. THIS ANZEIGER ARTICLE STATES THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IN BONN MADE A DOCUMENT AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL ANZEIGER IN WHICH THE ENERGY PROGRAM OF BRAZIL IS EXPLAINED AND JUSTIFIED IN DETAIL. THE DOCUMENT EMPHASIZES NUCLEAR ENERGY REQUIRED "EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND OFFERS A FULL GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL NOT BE USED FOR THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS." BRAZIL AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE DECLINES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ARMS RACE. THEREFORE BRAZIL HAS JOINED SEVEN TREATIES SINCE 1958 WHICH DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ARE AIMED TO PREVENT SPREAD OF NUCLEAR ARMS. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES ITS REPORT ON THE BRAZILIAN DOCUMENT BY CITING IT AS SAYING SOLELY THE NPT WAS NOT SIGNED BECAUSE OF ITS DISCRIMINATORY CHARACTER.

5. THE THIRD GENERAL ANZEIGER ARTICLE, DATE-LINED BRUSSELS, HEADLINES "THE SEARCH FOR A NEW RELATION-

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SHIP." IT REPORTS PURPORTED WEST EUROPEAN VIEWS THAT THE FRG, "FORMERLY THE MOST LOYAL ALLY OF THE U.S." -- AS THEY SEE IT -- IS EMANCIPATING ITSELF. ARTICLE STATES EC COUNTRIES HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT THIS. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY SUPPORT PRESIDENT CARTER'S ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES, BUT REALIZE THAT "WITHOUT BONN'S MONEY NATO CANNOT AFFORD AWACS." ARTICLE STATES "FOR THE FIRST TIME IN POST-WAR HISTORY A (GERMAN) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STANDS BEFORE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES WITH THE PROTECTOR-POWER OF THE WEST GERMAN REPUBLIC. IN ITSELF THIS IS NO REASON FOR FEAR, BECAUSE ALL POINTS OF CONTENTION ARE THE RESULT OF THE ROLE INTO WHICH THE BONN STATE HAS GROWN THANKS TO ITS ECONOMIC POWER." ARTICLE CONCLUDES "IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO BELIEVE THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WOULD HAVE TO BOW TO ALL WISHES OF WASHINGTON. THE UNITED STATES -- UNLESS THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN ITS CONCEPTS OF FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY -- IS AS DEPENDENT ON WEST GERMANY AS VICE-VERSA. HOWEVER, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CANNOT THINK OF ENTERING A SPLENDID INSOLATION." GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE "EUROPEAN SHIRT" WILL BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE "AMERICAN COAT", BUT ONLY WITH RESPECT TO EC SOLIDARITY CAN THE FRG RISK STRONG DIFFERENCES WITHOUT HARM.

6. THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, A CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENT DAILY, REPORTS THAT GENSCHER IS LEAVING FOR WASHINGTON ON SHORT NOTICE, THOUGH IT ALSO REPORTS FONOFF DENIALS OF THIS ASSERTION. IT REPORTS THAT THE CHRISTOPHER - HERMES TALKS DID NOT CLOSE THE GAP IN U.S. AND FRG VIEWS. ON BASIS OF "INTER-PRETATION," IT SAYS U.S. WANTS NO SENSITIVE NUCLEAR FACILITIES PUT INTO BRAZIL, WHEREAS FRG SAYS IT MUST MEET ITS BINDING OBLIGATIONS. REPORTING THE CARTER-SCHMIDT CORRESPONDENCE LESS EXTENSIVELY THAN THE ANZEIGER, IT STATES THAT CARTER AND SCHMIDT AGREED

THAT SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF PROLIFERATIONS MUST BE FOUND. AS FOR LEBER'S VISIT, THE ALLGEMEINE REPORTS THAT THE BROWN-LEBER TALKS WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE TANK PROJECT AND ON AWACS. ON THE FORMER, IT REVIEWS THE HISTORY OF THE AGREEMENTS ON TANK STANDARDIZATION AND SAYS THE FRG WANTS TO CARRY OUT THOSE

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ACCORDS, BUT THAT THE U.S. APPARENTLY FAVORS BRITISH
PARTICIPATION ON THE GUN. ON AWACS, IT SAYS NO

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DECISION ON GERMAN PARTICIPATION CAN BE FOUND UNTIL THE
TANK MATTER IS CLARIFIED.

7. THE SEUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, AN INDEPENDENT MUNICH
DAILY WITH STRONG TIES TO THE SPD, SAID IN FRONT-PAGE
LEAD THAT THERE WAS "TENSION BETWEEN BONN AND WASHINGTON"
PROMPTING GENSCHER'S "SURPRISING" VISIT TO THE UNITED
STATES. "THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER
LEBER WANT TO AVERT A CLEAR DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS,"
THE SUBHEADLINE SAID.

THE ARTICLE SAID THAT PROBLEMS IN BONN-WASHINGTON
RELATIONS HAD ARISEN "NOT ONLY OVER ECONOMIC POLICY,
BUT ALSO OVER THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR EXPORTS (THE BRAZILIAN
TRANSACTION AND THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY), AS WELL
AS OVER WEAPONS STANDARDIZATION."

"GENSCHER AND HERMES AGAIN PRESENTED THE BONN
POSITION THAT THE GERMAN-BRAZIL PACT WILL BE ADHERED
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TO," THE PAPER SAID. "CHRISTOPHER HEARD IN BONN THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC SEES ITSELF AS THE WESTERN COUNTRY HAVING THE BEST RELATIONS TO LATIN AMERICAN STATES. THIS POSITION, WHICH IS ALSO USEFUL FOR THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT BE FRIVOLOUSLY JEOPARDIZED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE DEPUTY U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE WAS TOLD." THE ARTICLE CONTINUED: "TO FULFILL THE DEMANDS PRESENTED BY CARTER WOULD MEAN NO NOTHING LESS THAN A MASSIVE SHAKING FOR GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. ALSO, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO KEEP NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FROM THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD. THAT WOULD OPEN A NEW FRONT IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE."

8. OTHER PAPERS CARRY LESS DETAILED STORIES (SPRINGER'S DIE WELT EVEN HAS NOTHING), GENERALLY POINTING TO EXISTENCES OF U.S.-GERMAN ISSUES WITHOUT GREAT DETAIL.
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